Hearst Syndicate Muzzles Winchell

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'Mirror' Censors His Blast at Texan's Smear of 'Under Cover'

Rep. Martin Dies (D., Tex.), who is engaged in a bitter battle to silence Walter Winchell, one of his most outspoken critics, is getting strong support from Hearst executives who are in a position to slash Winchell's copy or suppress it entirely.

A few days ago the Hearst-owned New York *Daily Mirror* slashed sizeable chunks from a Winchell column which blasted Dies for his attack on *Under Cover* and its author, John Roy Carlson.

Yesterday, out-of-town newspapers that subscribe to the Winchell column failed to receive the one that appeared in the *Mirror*—it was devoted entirely to the record of Dies and his Committee on Un-American Activities — because Hearst-owned King Features decided it should appear only in the *Daily Mirror*.

(*See Editorial on Page 2, and John P. Lewis's Letter on Page 14.*)

Connolly Reply

An inquiry as to why the column was suppressed brought this reply from J. V. Connolly, head of King Features:

"Newspapers are in competition with radio. Newspapers are disinclined to promote interest in radio programs because the radio is a definite competitor of newspapers.

"For example, in the case of Mr. Winchell's column, we have continuous complaints from newspapers that buy his New York column on the ground of his reference to his radio activity.

"It would be no more possible to sell to the newspapers a column such as was written about Mr. Dies in connection with his radio debate, than it would be for us to sell the interview with Mr. Dies about Mr. Winchell.

"Those kind of controversies appear in the news columns and do not fall within the entertaining feature that newspapers buy from Winchell."

Lait More Explicit

Jack Lait, editor of the *Mirror*, was more explicit when asked why parts of another recent Winchell column were censored. In a typed memo, he replied:

"The Winchell columns should not be used to attack the figures in American life who agree with the policy of the *Mirror* or whose policies are supported by the *Mirror*."

Column on Dies

Here is the unexpurgated text of the Winchell item which inspired Lait's comment, with the deleted portions in bold-face type:

"Congressman Dies harangued Congress the other day with a blast at the book, *Under Cover*, and its author, John Roy Carlson, **for a reason you wouldn't believe if it were anybody but Dies stating it . . . Dies got into a pet** because, he charges, Carlson edited a vermin sheet accusing the Dies Committee of being 'Jew controlled' . . . Carlson admits in his book that he played the rats' game, took employment among them in order to get the deadly information against them that his book is packed with **. . . Dies doesn't seem to be especially concerned with the rest of the book, which alleges crimes against the Government and mentions names and locations of outfits allegedly engaged in shattering our national unity and giving the Nazi system an extension of life over here . . . Isn't that a fine way for**

a Congressman to collar the spotlight?

"Look: His charge, as related in a *Times* dispatch, is not against the Axis—**that used the charge against him.** It is against a writer who, to serve a better purpose, was a minor agent of it . . . **It is almost a yawn to think about Dies anyway. Ever since his committee was established, its name has been synonymous with reckless and irresponsible misstatements. His charges of red alliance against Government employes have become notorious by their failure to stand up. His frantic and generally unsupported claims are a symptom of election years . . . Dies is a smalltime Congressman with a record of no praiseworthy legislation and a long record of windbagging. The measure of the man is his act of ignoring the dangers to the U. S. in *Under Cover* to pick out an unflattering reference to himself . . . That's the Congressman from Texas in time of war."**

Yesterday's column, devoted to ripping Rep. Dies apart in the same general style, was prefaced by a boxed "Love Letter," dated Dec. 18, 1940, in which Dies thanked Winchell for his "constructive criticism," praised Winchell as "a real American who is opposed to all forms of totalitarianism" and wound up with the declaration that "I shall always have a warm spot in my heart for you."

Next Sunday, Dies and Winchell will have a chance to fight it out with words, from separate studios over the Blue Network (WJZ) Winchell will have his usual 9 p.m spot, sponsored by the Andrew Jergens Co., and Dies will follow with an equal 15 minutes to say what he thinks about Winchell.